

1 AN ACT relating to child abuse.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 620.030 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent,
5 neglected, or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to
6 a local law enforcement agency or to the Department of Kentucky State Police, the
7 cabinet or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's attorney, or the
8 county attorney by telephone or otherwise. ~~Any supervisor who receives from an~~
9 ~~employee a report of suspected dependency, neglect, or abuse shall promptly make~~
10 ~~a report to the proper authorities for investigation.]~~ If the cabinet receives a report
11 of abuse or neglect allegedly committed by a person other than a parent, guardian,
12 fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special trust, or
13 person exercising custodial control or supervision, the cabinet shall refer the matter
14 to the Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney and the local law
15 enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police. Nothing in this
16 section shall relieve individuals of their obligations to report.

17 (2) (a) Any person, including but not limited to a physician, osteopathic physician,
18 nurse, teacher, school personnel, social worker, coroner, medical examiner,
19 child-caring personnel, resident, intern, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist,
20 emergency medical technician, paramedic, health professional, mental health
21 professional, peace officer, or any organization or agency for any of the
22 above, who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is
23 dependent, neglected, or abused, regardless of whether the person believed to
24 have caused the dependency, neglect, or abuse is a parent, guardian, fictive
25 kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special trust,
26 person exercising custodial control or supervision, or another person, or who
27 has attended such child as a part of his or her professional duties, shall:

- 1 (3) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of
2 human trafficking as defined in KRS 529.010 shall immediately cause an oral or
3 written report to be made to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of
4 Kentucky State Police; or the cabinet or its designated representative; or the
5 Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney; by telephone or otherwise. This
6 subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have caused the
7 human trafficking of the child is a parent, guardian, fictive kin, person in a position
8 of authority, person in a position of special trust, or person exercising custodial
9 control or supervision.
- 10 (4) Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of
11 female genital mutilation as defined in KRS 508.125 shall immediately cause an
12 oral or written report to be made by telephone or otherwise to:
- 13 (a) A local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police;
 - 14 (b) The cabinet or its designated representative; or
 - 15 (c) The Commonwealth's attorney or the county attorney.
- 16 This subsection shall apply regardless of whether the person believed to have
17 caused the female genital mutilation of the child is a parent, guardian, or person
18 exercising custodial control or supervision.
- 19 (5) Neither the husband-wife nor any professional-client/patient privilege, except the
20 attorney-client and clergy-penitent privilege, shall be a ground for refusing to report
21 under this section or for excluding evidence regarding a dependent, neglected, or
22 abused child or the cause thereof, in any judicial proceedings resulting from a report
23 pursuant to this section. This subsection shall also apply in any criminal proceeding
24 in District or Circuit Court regarding a dependent, neglected, or abused child.
- 25 (6) The cabinet upon request shall receive from any agency of the state or any other
26 agency, institution, or facility providing services to the child or his or her family,
27 such cooperation, assistance, and information as will enable the cabinet to fulfill its

1 responsibilities under KRS 620.030, 620.040, and 620.050.

2 (7) Nothing in this section shall limit the cabinet's investigatory authority under KRS
3 620.050 or any other obligation imposed by law.

4 (8) Any person who intentionally violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty
5 of a:

6 (a) Class B misdemeanor for the first offense;

7 (b) Class A misdemeanor for the second offense; and

8 (c) Class D felony for each subsequent offense.

9 ➔Section 2. KRS 620.040 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) (a) Upon receipt of a report alleging abuse or neglect by a parent, guardian,
11 fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of special
12 trust, or person exercising custodial control or supervision, pursuant to KRS
13 620.030(1) or (2), or a report alleging a child is a victim of human trafficking
14 pursuant to KRS 620.030(3), the recipient of the report shall immediately
15 notify the cabinet or its designated representative, the local law enforcement
16 agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police, and the Commonwealth's
17 or county attorney of the receipt of the report~~[unless they are the reporting~~
18 ~~source]~~. **If the agency is the reporting source, the recipient shall**
19 **immediately notify the cabinet or its designated representative, the local law**
20 **enforcement agency, the Kentucky State Police, and the Commonwealth's**
21 **or county attorney of the receipt of the report.**

22 (b) Based upon the allegation in the report, the cabinet shall immediately make an
23 initial determination as to the risk of harm and immediate safety of the child.
24 Based upon the level of risk determined, the cabinet shall investigate the
25 allegation or accept the report for an assessment of family needs and, if
26 appropriate, may provide or make referral to any community-based services
27 necessary to reduce risk to the child and to provide family support. A report of

1 sexual abuse or human trafficking of a child shall be considered high risk and
2 shall not be referred to any other community agency.

3 (c) The cabinet shall, within seventy-two (72) hours, exclusive of weekends and
4 holidays, make a written report to the Commonwealth's or county attorney
5 and the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State
6 Police concerning the action that has been taken on the investigation.

7 (d) If the report alleges abuse or neglect by someone other than a parent,
8 guardian, fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in a position of
9 special trust, or person exercising custodial control or supervision, or the
10 human trafficking of a child, the cabinet shall immediately notify the
11 Commonwealth's or county attorney and the local law enforcement agency or
12 the Department of Kentucky State Police.

13 (2) (a) Upon receipt of a report alleging dependency pursuant to KRS 620.030(1) and
14 (2), the recipient shall immediately notify the cabinet or its designated
15 representative.

16 (b) Based upon the allegation in the report, the cabinet shall immediately make an
17 initial determination as to the risk of harm and immediate safety of the child.
18 Based upon the level of risk, the cabinet shall investigate the allegation or
19 accept the report for an assessment of family needs and, if appropriate, may
20 provide or make referral to any community-based services necessary to reduce
21 risk to the child and to provide family support. A report of sexual abuse or
22 human trafficking of a child shall be considered high risk and shall not be
23 referred to any other community agency.

24 (c) The cabinet need not notify the local law enforcement agency or the
25 Department of Kentucky State Police or Commonwealth's or county attorney~~]~~
26 ~~or Commonwealth's attorney]~~ of reports made under this subsection unless the
27 report involves the human trafficking of a child, in which case the notification

1 shall be required.

2 (3) If the cabinet or its designated representative receives a report of abuse by a person
3 other than a parent, guardian, fictive kin, person in a position of authority, person in
4 a position of special trust, or other person exercising custodial control or
5 supervision of a child, it shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency
6 or the Department of Kentucky State Police and the Commonwealth's or county
7 attorney of the receipt of the report and its contents, and they shall investigate the
8 matter. The cabinet or its designated representative shall participate in an
9 investigation of noncustodial physical abuse or neglect at the request of the local
10 law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police. The cabinet
11 shall participate in all investigations of reported or suspected sexual abuse or human
12 trafficking of a child.

13 (4) School personnel or other persons listed in KRS 620.030(2) do not have the
14 authority to conduct internal investigations in lieu of the official investigations
15 outlined in this section.

16 (5) (a) If, after receiving the report, the law enforcement officer, the cabinet, or its
17 designated representative cannot gain admission to the location of the child, a
18 search warrant shall be requested from, and may be issued by, the judge to the
19 appropriate law enforcement official upon probable cause that the child is
20 dependent, neglected, or abused. If, pursuant to a search under a warrant, a
21 child is discovered and appears to be in imminent danger, the child may be
22 removed by the law enforcement officer.

23 (b) If a child who is in a hospital or under the immediate care of a physician
24 appears to be in imminent danger if he or she is returned to the persons having
25 custody of him or her, the physician or hospital administrator may hold the
26 child without court order, provided that a request is made to the court for an
27 emergency custody order at the earliest practicable time, not to exceed

1 seventy-two (72) hours.

2 (c) Any appropriate law enforcement officer may take a child into protective
3 custody and may hold that child in protective custody without the consent of
4 the parent or other person exercising custodial control or supervision if there
5 exist reasonable grounds for the officer to believe that the child is in danger of
6 imminent death or serious physical injury, is being sexually abused, or is a
7 victim of human trafficking and that the parents or other person exercising
8 custodial control or supervision are unable or unwilling to protect the child.
9 The officer or the person to whom the officer entrusts the child shall, within
10 twelve (12) hours of taking the child into protective custody, request the court
11 to issue an emergency custody order.

12 (d) When a law enforcement officer, hospital administrator, or physician takes a
13 child into custody without the consent of the parent or other person exercising
14 custodial control or supervision, he or she shall provide written notice to the
15 parent or other person stating the reasons for removal of the child. Failure of
16 the parent or other person to receive notice shall not, by itself, be cause for
17 civil or criminal liability.

18 (e) 1. If a report includes a child fatality or near fatality, and the law
19 enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe any parent or
20 person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child was under
21 the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time the fatality or near fatality
22 occurred, the law enforcement officer shall request a test of blood,
23 breath, or urine from that person.

24 2. If, after making the request, consent is not given for the test of blood,
25 breath, or urine, a search warrant shall be requested from and may be
26 issued by the judge to the appropriate law enforcement official upon
27 probable cause that a child fatality or near fatality has occurred and that

1 the person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child at the
2 time of the fatality or near fatality was under the influence.

3 3. Any test requested under this section shall be conducted pursuant to the
4 testing procedures and requirements in KRS 189A.103.

5 (6) To the extent practicable and when in the best interest of a child alleged to have
6 been abused, interviews with the child shall be conducted at a children's advocacy
7 center.

8 (7) (a) One (1) or more multidisciplinary teams may be established in every county
9 or group of contiguous counties.

10 (b) Membership of the multidisciplinary team shall include but shall not be
11 limited to social service workers employed by the Cabinet for Health and
12 Family Services and law enforcement officers. Additional team members may
13 include Commonwealth's and county attorneys, children's advocacy center
14 staff, mental health professionals, medical professionals, victim advocates
15 including advocates for victims of human trafficking, educators, and other
16 related professionals, as deemed appropriate.

17 (c) The multidisciplinary team shall review child sexual abuse cases and child
18 human trafficking cases involving commercial sexual activity referred by
19 participating professionals, including those in which the alleged perpetrator
20 does not have custodial control or supervision of the child or is not
21 responsible for the child's welfare. The purpose of the multidisciplinary team
22 shall be to review investigations, assess service delivery, and to facilitate
23 efficient and appropriate disposition of cases through the criminal justice
24 system.

25 (d) The team shall hold regularly scheduled meetings if new reports of sexual
26 abuse or child human trafficking cases involving commercial sexual activity
27 are received or if active cases exist. At each meeting, each active case shall be

- 1 presented and the agencies' responses assessed.
- 2 (e) The multidisciplinary team shall provide an annual report to the public of
3 nonidentifying case information to allow assessment of the processing and
4 disposition of child sexual abuse cases and child human trafficking cases
5 involving commercial sexual activity.
- 6 (f) Multidisciplinary team members and anyone invited by the multidisciplinary
7 team to participate in a meeting shall not divulge case information, including
8 information regarding the identity of the victim or source of the report. Team
9 members and others attending meetings shall sign a confidentiality statement
10 that is consistent with statutory prohibitions on disclosure of this information.
- 11 (g) The multidisciplinary team shall, pursuant to KRS 431.600 and 431.660,
12 develop a local protocol consistent with the model protocol issued by the
13 Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse. The local
14 team shall submit the protocol to the commission for review and approval.
- 15 (h) The multidisciplinary team review of a case may include information from
16 reports generated by agencies, organizations, or individuals that are
17 responsible for investigation, prosecution, or treatment in the case, KRS
18 610.320 to KRS 610.340 notwithstanding.
- 19 (i) To the extent practicable, multidisciplinary teams shall be staffed by the local
20 children's advocacy center.
- 21 (8) Nothing in this section shall limit the cabinet's investigatory authority under KRS
22 620.050 or any other obligation imposed by law.
- 23 ➔Section 3. KRS 620.072 is amended to read as follows:
- 24 (1) If the cabinet's initial determination as to the risk of harm to and immediate safety
25 of an *alleged* abused or neglected child as defined in KRS 600.020 requires an
26 investigation *or assessment* pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated by
27 the cabinet, including consideration of information on the nature and extent of a

- 1 present danger or threat of danger to the child or cabinet staff, and if the
2 investigation requires a visit to the residence or location where the reported abuse
3 or neglect occurred, the cabinet may [~~shall~~] make the visit unannounced, in addition
4 to any other actions taken to protect the child.
- 5 (2) If the initial visit is necessary, after it is completed, the cabinet may [~~shall~~]
6 incorporate unannounced visits with any necessary scheduled visits until the
7 welfare of the child has been safeguarded in accordance with administrative
8 regulations promulgated by the cabinet.
- 9 (3) If there is reason to believe a child is in imminent danger, or if a parent or caretaker
10 of a child refuses the cabinet entry to a child's home or refuses to allow a child to be
11 interviewed, the cabinet may request assistance:
- 12 (a) From law enforcement; or
13 (b) Through a request for a court order pursuant to KRS 620.040(5)(a).
- 14 (4) A school or a child-care provider shall provide the cabinet access to a child subject
15 to an investigation without parental consent.